

Please amend the abstract, as follows:

The invention relates to a method for the production and allocation of nucleic acids and polypeptides coded thereby. ~~Said~~ The method can be used for evolutionary selection of polypeptides *in vitro*. The inventive method makes it possible to allocate nucleic acids to the polypeptides coded thereby and to select and isolate nucleic acids coding for polypeptides with selected properties. The invention is directed to the use of (cytosin-5)-methyl transferases and to the use of fusion polypeptides or nucleic acid fusion polypeptide complexes covalently bonded thereto according to the inventive method.

Please amend from the line before paragraph [85] through paragraph [90] as follows:

FIGURES BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0085] The present invention will be illustrated with reference to the figures. In this respect:

[0086] FIG. 1 illustrates a scheme of the selection cycle according to the present invention wherein A represents an encapsulation of the DNA library into microcompartments, B represents an extraction of the emulsion, C represents a selection of polypeptides having the best properties, D represents an amplification of the genetic information of the bound polypeptides (PCR), E represents a further selection cycle, F represents cloning of the coded polypeptides, 1 represents a DNA library, 2 represents a DNA molecule, 3A represents a water-in-oil emulsion, 3B represents a water compartment, 4 represents a collection of DNA-polypeptides fusions, polypeptide-DNA complexes, 5 represents fusion polypeptides, 5A represents constant peptide part I, 5B represents variable peptide part II, 6 represents DNA-polypeptide fusion or polypeptide-DNA complex, 7 represents bound polypeptides, 8 represents immobilized target molecules, 9 represents a new collection of genes and * represents a suicide inhibitor;

[0087] FIG. 2 illustrates a schematic representation of the processes within a micro compartment of a water-in-oil emulsion, wherein 2 represents a DNA molecule, 3B represents a water compartment, 5 represents fusion polypeptides, 5A represents constant peptide part I, 5B represents variable peptide part II, 10 represents mRNA, III represents transcription, IV represents translation, and V represents fusion polypeptide reaction with the suicide inhibitor (*) at or on the DNA molecule;

[88] FIG. 3a illustrates the stability of the size distribution of the water compartments of the water-in-oil emulsion;

[0089] FIG. 3b illustrates the preferred diameter of the water compartments within the range of 1 μm and 2 μm ;

[0090] FIG. 4 illustrates the covalent binding of DNA to M.Hae III methylase; wherein lanes 2-7 from left to right the samples are applied with an increasing incubation time (on top of each lane the incubation time is provided from 15'-240'). The lanes X (without cofactors SAM), Y (without M.Hae III methylase) and Z (without the DNA fragment (268 bp));